

# Water for the Poor Initiative

## Recent Results



*Throughout Africa: Increasing access to clean water enables women and children to spend time earning income or attending school rather than hauling water.*



*India: Improved water supply and sanitation enhances child survival.*



*Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia: Provision of water supply and sourcewater protection are integral components of drug eradication efforts.*

The United States announced a 970 million dollar initiative (2003-2005) to improve sustainable management of water resources at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in August, 2002. It is anticipated that these investments will mobilize an additional 630 million dollars for water-related activities globally. The Initiative will accelerate and expand international efforts to achieve the goals within the UN Millennium Declaration and implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation including halving, by 2015, "the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water," and "the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation." Results to date have proven the effectiveness of the interventions undertaken, and underscore the commitment of the United States in working with other governments and non-governmental partners in three key areas:

- Access to clean water and sanitation services;
- Improved watershed management; and
- Increasing the productivity of water.

## Access to Clean Water and Sanitation Services

The United States is investing 510 million dollars over three years for USAID water and sanitation programs worldwide, concentrating on investments in countries where water authorities are undertaking the reforms necessary to enable viable partnerships that engage local governments, water utilities, the private sector, civil society, communities and families. For example:

- **In South Africa**, USAID spends 6 million dollars annually to provide sustainable water and sanitation services to municipalities through public-private and public-public partnerships. Fifty-three water and sanitation projects have been completed to date, and many of the recipients are the urban poor. USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA) provided loan guarantees that enabled municipalities to finance high priority infrastructure projects for the provision of water and sanitation to poor areas. This enabled the Vlakfontein Outfall Sewer District to initiate a 2.5 million dollar project to provide sanitation to approximately 100,000 poor people previously lacking access.
- **In Ghana, Mali, and Niger**, USAID is a partner in the West Africa Water Initiative, a public-private alliance of thirteen international organizations announced at WSSD. The United States provided 5 million dollars, complementing over 36 million dollars in other resources, to invest in small-scale potable water supply and sanitation, hygiene, and integrated water resources management for over 400,000 people in poor rural and peri-urban communities. Since WSSD, community organization and training, well-drilling, solar pump installation, and small-scale irrigation pilot activities have all begun.
- **In India**, USAID spends over 4 million dollars annually to support the Finance Institutional Reform (FIRE) project to demonstrate innovative financing for water partnerships. Since WSSD, DCA private sector financing raised a total of 6.4 million dollars in Indian rupees for six projects in the state of Tamil Nadu including a \$403,000 project in the township of Valasaravakkam to lay underground water pipes from a safe drinking water source to serve 26,000 people.

### The USAID Water Team

[www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/  
environment/water/index.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/index.html)  
[www.sdp.gov](http://www.sdp.gov)





***Mali:** Support for environmentally sustainable irrigation boosts economic growth and alleviates hunger and poverty.*



***Worldwide:** Strengthening water user associations promotes conflict resolution and shared management of common water resources.*



***Tanzania:** Enhancing national policy on mariculture protects water quality while promoting food security.*



***Philippines:** Devolution of government authority empowers local community groups to take action through a water alliance.*

- **In the Central Asian Republics**, USAID has launched several activities in the water sector, including a large program on potable water in the Karakalpakstan region of Uzbekistan, an area hit hard by the Aral Sea Disaster. The project will bring water to over 500,000 people in the region through new wells, purifying equipment, and delivery systems.

### Improved Watershed Management

The United States is investing more than 400 million dollars over the Initiative's three years to integrate surface water, aquifer, and coastal zone issues to better manage water resources and to protect watersheds. For example:

- **In Morocco**, USAID has helped promote improved water resources management in the Souss-Massa River Basin and in other important basins in the country. These activities have resulted in improved decentralized management of water resources through the formation of operational basin water authorities.
- **In Jamaica**, the 15 million dollar Ridge-to-Reef Program focuses on reducing the impact of contamination from agricultural run-off and nutrient-rich sewage flowing from informal settlements in the watershed and along rivers. This is accomplished through improved agricultural practices and watershed management, education and enforcement. As a result of this project, Jamaica's National Water Commission has strengthened its capacity to effectively create public partnerships for wastewater treatment and involve the tourism industry in Environmental Management Systems.
- **The Geographic Information for Sustainable Development Initiative (GISD)**, a USAID-U.S. State Department-led international alliance announced at WSSD applies a new generation of geographic information systems technologies to watershed management and other sustainable development issues in the developing world. Through a recent investment of 2.2 million dollars, the United States has leveraged more than 60 million dollars from the private sector and governmental donors, including at least 50 million dollars in research and development from data imagery producers.
- **The Philippines Integrated Water Resources Alliance** was formed in September, 2002 to help cities implement a model, basin-wide approach to urban water resources management. This public-private sector alliance is working to replicate efforts of selected cities in other local governments and their watersheds.

### Increased Productivity of Water

- **In Bangladesh**, the 12 million dollar Management of Aquatic Ecosystems through Community Husbandry (MACH) project encompasses a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector participatory process of planning and monitoring to enhance the productivity of fisheries and farmlands, sustainably managing water resources.
- **Since WSSD**, USAID/Mali initiated a 10 million dollar Irrigated Agriculture Development Program to support intensification and development of the irrigated agriculture sector, thereby increasing economic growth and alleviating poverty.
- **In Colombia**, USAID helps farming communities adopt sustainable aquaculture practices as an alternative means of income generation to help eliminate their reliance on illicit coca production.
- **In Nepal**, USAID is working to increase private sector participation in environmentally and socially sustainable hydropower development while also strengthening institutional government capacity to regulate private investment activity and ensure that water resources are utilized efficiently.